POL 14 VIETS

Department of State TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9404
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4678
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2859
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1199

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Irene Szenberg DATE 1/20/82
NDS ☐ or XGS ☐ EXT. DATE
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E.O. 12356 EXEMPTION ☐
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9290

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE WINNERS IN VINH BINH

REF: A. SAIGON 6814 B. SAIGON 8007

1. REFTELS REPORTED ON THE CANDIDATES FOR THE LOWER HOUSE IN VINH BINH, WHERE TWO VIETNAMESE AND ONE CAMBODIAN SEAT WERE CONTESTED. THE WINNERS:

A. NGUYEN CONG DUC, 31, 24,714 VOTES. NOT MUCH IS KNOWN OF DUC. HIS OPPONENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN CHARGE HIM WITH VARIOUS MALFEASANCE, INCLUDING OPERATION OF A BROTHEL IN SAIGON, BUYING OFF HIS MILITARY OBLIGATION, AND SPENDING GREAT SUMS OF

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MONEY (OBVIOUSLY IN SOME UNDERHANDED WAY) DURING THE ELECTION. THESE CHARGES ARE UNVERIFIED.

B. NGUYEN VAN THANH, 48, 18,350 VOTES. THANH, AN ARVN LT. COL., WAS PROVINCE CHIEF IN VINH BINH UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1967 WHEN HE STEPPED ON A MINE AND WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR SOME TIME. THANH WAS REGARDED AS A RELATIVELY HONEST IF SOMEWHAT AUTOCRATIC PROVINCE CHIEF. HE IS A BUDDHIST AND IS A RELATIVE OF TRAN VAN HUONG.

2. WINNING THE CAMBODIAN SEAT WAS KIEN SOT, 43, WITH 31,102 VOTES. SOT IS A MEMBER OF THE VINH BINH THERAVADA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION AND SAYS HE IS CLOSE TO SAIGON THERAVADA LEADER SON THAI NGUYEN.

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